Multiple airports in big cities

*505. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to build more than one airport in big cities;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any such policy has been framed;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (e) The Police on Airport Infrastructure, 1997 provides the requisite guidelines for the development of airport infrastructure in the country.

This policy is being re-aligned in keeping with the fast-changing requirements of the aviation sector. Formal approval of the competent authority for the new guidelines is awaited whereafter these would be notified.

Interlinking of rivers as National Project

*506. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is preventing Government to declare inter-linking of rivers in the country as a National Project;

(b) whether Government would declare any time bound action plan in order to implement the National Project; and

(c) if so, whether Government is considering to make a provision in the Eleventh Five Year Plan for the funds required for the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ: (a) to (c) as per the selection criteria of the National Projects, approved by the Central Government projects for interlinking of rivers can be taken up as National Projects. At present, one Project for inter linking of rivers namely, Ken-Betwa has been included in the list of National Project.

The projects are implemented as per the time schedule mentioned in their approved Detailed Project Reports (DPR).

A provision of Rs. 220 crore has been made in Eleventh plan for preparation of Pre Feasibility Reports (PFRs)/Feasibility Reports (FRs) and DPRs of projects for interlinking of rivers. Further, a provision of Rs. 600 crore has been proposed for implementation of Ken-Betwa link as a National Project during Eleventh Plan.

Permission to Net Jet for operating in India

07. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be d to state:

(a) whether Government has given permission to Net Jet to operate in India with an Indian strategic partner;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the terms and conditions of the permission granted;

(c) whether security clearance from Government has been obtained by Net Jet for foray into Indian market; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No, Sir. Infact no such application has been received by the Government.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Revision of pay in Public Sector Banks/Insurance Companies

*509. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the pay revision of Public Sector Banks and Insurance Companies is due and the employees and workers' organisations have been already given their demand;

(b) if so, by when Government is going to start the negotiation with these organisations; and

(c) whether these organisations of employees and officers are demanding long term settlement for five years?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The 8th Bipartite Settlement on wage revision between the workmen Unions and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA) and the Agreement between the Officers Association and IBA for the salary revision and other service conditions of bank employees expired on the 31st October, 2007. The Workmen Unions and the Officers Associations under the umbrella of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) have submitted their Charter of Demands to IBA on revision of wage/salary and other service benefits in October, 2007. Bank Karamchari Sena Mahasangh have also submitted a separate Memorandum to IBA. Negotiations by IBA are expected to commence in May 2008 on the receipt of requisite data/information from banks, who have mandated IBA for holding wage negotiations workmen unions/ officers' associations on their behalf. The settlement with the Unions of workmen employees is normally for a period of five years. The salary revision of officers takes place simultaneously with that for workmen, and has been valid for a period of five years.

Similarly, the wage/salary revision of the employees of Insurance Companies is due from 1.8.2007. As of now, the Charter of Demands has been sumbitted by some of the Unions/Associations of the Insurance Companies to the Managements of the Insurance Companies and is awaited from others. The negotiations would be held by the Managements of Life Insurance Corporation of India and General Insurers' (Public Sector) Association